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# 1. Overview of CENTUM VP FCS

Yokogawa developed all the CENTUM Series Field Control Stations (FCSs), including hardware and software, by our own selves. We know every corner of the software and the hardware and that knowledge enables us to sustain the service record of 99.99999% availability.

## 1.1 Compact Design

The size of each component is designed compact that reduces the overall “footprint” of the control system. It allows make efficient use of the limited spaces of the control and equipment rooms. Both the FCS and its I/O node units can be placed in remote classified locations (IEC Zone2/Class I Div. 2), that provides savings in installation costs.

## 1.2 Dual-redundancy and Reliability

There is no single point of failure in Yokogawa’s FCS! The processor modules, power supplies, and I/O modules, including the communication bus, support a redundant configuration. The robustness of the FCS comes from this configuration known as “Pair and Spare” and the reliability of calculation results is guaranteed through real-time validation. Two processor modules have two MPUs each. MPU 1 and MPU 2 in the primary processor module are always comparing the calculation result, and if the results do not match, the first processor module goes into maintenance mode while the secondary processor module takes over process control. In order to make this switch over seamless, MPU 3 and MPU 4 are also calculating and comparing the results while the primary processor module is active. Pair and Spare is Yokogawa’s unique technology, supporting impressive levels of availability for CENTUM and ProSafe-RS. This architecture has been approved by TÜV Rheinland for safety instrumented systems. The ProSafe-RS certification was granted to Yokogawa in exceptionally short period of time, and it was due in-part to our Pair and Spare technology.

## 1.3 Online Maintenance

Through an online maintenance function, FCS applications can be modified without shutting down the FCSs. It means, you can change logics and parameters without interrupting the process control. This is useful for expansion or modification of the plant in operation.

## 1.4 Open Structure and High Reliability

Yokogawa is committed to reduce costs for our customers by enabling the use of commercial off-the-shelf technology where appropriate. Third-party cables, switches and other network communication devices can be used with Yokogawa’s Ethernet based Vnet/IP. Plant reliability is in no way compromised as the communication response is guaranteed (deterministic as opposed to probabilistic) thanks to Yokogawa’s renowned reliability, dedicated protocol, and redundant configuration.

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## 1.5 Function Blocks

The CENTUM VP provides functional blocks for monitoring, control, manipulations, calculations, logic functions, and sequences. Not only continuous control but also advanced control, complicated sequence control, and batch control are all executed in a redundant, secure, and reliable controller environment. Plant systems can be flexibly designed, ranging from small- to large-scale, through the combination of these control blocks.

## 1.6 Subsystem Integration and Digital Fieldnetworks Support

To meet the growing need for communication with manufacturing equipment including variable speed drives, PLCs, and “smart” motor protection relays for operation and monitoring, as well as with analyzers, weighing machines, smart instruments, and other instruments used for product inspection, CENTUM VP supports a wide variety of communication interfaces and digital fieldnetworks such as FOUNDATION fieldbus, PROFIBUS-DP, Modbus RTU, Modbus TCP/IP, and DeviceNet.

## 1.7 Unit Instruments

The multiple devices of a process facility which would previously have been handled individually can now be defined, operated, and monitored as a single unit, simplifying operation. Unit instruments can be applied to batch processes and continuous control processes that require complex management, expediting overall plant operation.